(c) The time and labour required for compilation of running of every passenger train to pinpoint precisely the worst sections, routes or trains during, this seve$_n$ month period will not De commensurate with the results likely to b$_e$ achieved. However, it can be snid that punctuality ha$_s$ been relatively poor on Eastern, North Eastern (BG) and Northeast Frontier Railways as also New Delhi-Jhansi route of Central Railway.

(d) The following steps ar$_e$ being taken to improve the punctuality of trains:—

(i) Punctuality of trains j$_s$ monitor-' ed continuously at Divisional, Zonal and Railway Board's level.

(ii) Cases of avoidable detentions are analysed and corrective action taken.

(iii) Liation with concerned State Government is being maintained for arresting the incidence of alarm chain pulling, hose-pipe disconnection and other miscreant 'activities.

(iv) Punctuality drives are also frequently launched.

Price of Sugarcane fixed by Agricultural Prices Commission

2596. SHRr J. K. JAIN. Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether th$_e$ Agricultural Prices Commission h'as fixed any price for fhe purchase of sugarcane for the coming crushing season; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken by Government to ensure that different States/Union Territories adhere to th$_e$ prices fixed or suggested by the Agricultural Prices Commission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRT M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) Th$_e$ Agricultural Prices Commission ha$_s$ made a recommendation to the Government on tlie statutory minimum price of sugarcane to be fixed for tfie 1984-85 season.

(b) Th$_e$ statutory minimum prices of sugarcane payable by sugar factories are fixed by the Central Government under the sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, and not by the Agricultural Prices Commission. No sugar factory in any part of th$_e$ country can purchase cane at a price less th'an the statutory minimum cane price so fixed.

Purchase of Family Planning Equipments

2597. SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased t$_0$ state-.

(a) whether it is a fact 'hat 'huge purchases of instruments and equipments for Family Welfare Programme were made recently by the Central Council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha from a Delhi-based firm without inviting tenders/quotations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that books worth over Rs. 50,000/- wer$_P$ purchased from an unregistered firm; and

(c) if so, what are t'h$_e$ details thereof and the action taken or beng i$_n$ this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Durnig the last financial year 1982-83, the CC-RAS considered it essential to equip the clinical Research Units]Ceintres under th$_e$ Family Welfare Research Programme with certain essential instruments/ equipments required for performing clinical examination/application in the female patients. Th$_e$ Council has reported tfiat considering the urgency for procuring! these nstrutnents/equipments, sealed quotations wer$_e$ collected from the following firms:

1. M/s. The Metropolitan Surgical Works, Kolhapur Road. New Delhi.
2. M/s. Grover Enterprises, Malkaganj Chowk, Delhi.
3. M/s. Inde Middle East Surgical Works, Jawahar Nagar Delhi.